for India joining the TAP project. The revised draft Framework Agreement has been circulated amongst Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India for inclusion of India as an official member of the Project. The next meeting of the Steering Committee of the participating countries is proposed to be held soon.

Price of gas sold to Government and its nominees

817. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per clause 21.6.2(b) of PSC, Government is empowered to fix the price of the gas sold to Government or its nominees (i.e. power & Fertilixer PSUs); and

(b) if so, the reasons for no initiating action against the private player, who is not abiding by the clauses of PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) In terms of the provisions of Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed under the NELP regime, the Government does not fix the price of gas. The Government is required to approve the formula/basis on which the prices shall be determined for purpose of valuation of Government take prior to sale of natural gas by the contractor.

Further, contractors have the freedom to sell gas in the domestic market at arms length prices to the benefit of parties to the contract.

Non-payment of instalments to OVL by Sudan

818. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Sudan has not paid the two instalments to the ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) as per the acquisition agreement;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken up the issue with that country;

(c) if so, the response thereof;

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to have the dues towards OVL released;

(e) whether the acquisition agreement provide for any emergency for such cases; and

(f) if so, whether Government proposes to evoke such provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (f) Govt. of sudan has paid all the instalments due and also interest thereof. The performance of responsibilities and obligations under the Pipeline Contract Agreement (PCA) are backed and guaranteed by the Government of Sudan through Sovereign Guarantee.

Guidelines for acquisition made abroad by Public Sector Oil Companies.

819. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of acquisition made by Public Sector Oil Companies in the last two years alongwith the cost of such acquisitions, and in how many of these fields, the production has actually commenced;

(b) whether Government has prescribed any guideline regarding the acquisitions made abroad by the Public Sector Oil Companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the emergency clauses in such acquisition agreements between the Oil PSUs and the host countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) In last two years, OVL as well as other National Oil Companies (NOCs) such as Oil India Ltd. (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) have acquired participating interest in 29 Oil and Gas projects in 20 countries. Out of these projects, production has actually commenced in two fields. Most of these acquisitions have investment implications on exploration and are not by way of out right acquisition.

(b) to (d) Guidelines issued by Deptt. of Public Enterprises regarding the acquisition by Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) are also applicable for Public Sector Oil Companies which *inter alia* accord delegation of power in respect of Navratna PSE—Rs. 1000 crore, category I PSE—Rs. 500 crore and category II PSE— Rs. 250 crore. Any acquisition beyond this limit are to be submitted by Public Sector Oil Companies for necessary Govt. approval.

Public Sector Oil Companies ensure that all necessary safeguards as may be required are kept in the agreement entered with the selling entities.

Agreement with Qatar for supply of gas

820. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently visited qatar in connection with the growing energy needs of our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement about the supply of gas has been entered into with that country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) A delegation led by Minister (P&NG) visited Qatar during October 28-30, 2007 to participate in 6th Doha Conference of Natural Gas.

On the sidelines of the Conference, a meeting was held between Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy & Industry of Qatar and Minister (P&NG), the latter expressed Indian interest in additional committed long-term supply of LNG to India. the Qatari side indicated that they would consider the request favourably. However, no agreement about supply of gas has been entered into with Qatar during the visit.

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) signed a contract with Ras Gas of Qatar in July, 1999 for import of 7.5 million Metric Tonnes per annum (MMTPA) LNG for a period of 25 years. As per the contract, supply of 5 MMTPA LNG commenced in 2004 and the supply of balance 2.5. MMTPA LNG would commence in 2009. Further, in July 2007, PLL has signed another contract with Ras Gas Qatar for supply of 1.25 MMT LNG from July, 2007 to September, 2008 to meet the requirement of Ratnagiri Power Project in Maharashtra.